Lastly, the Member complained that the officers of the Agricultural Department did not frequently visit the interior parts of the country. He, therefore, requested that they might be directed to visit the several *pakuthis* and advise the ryots on improved methods of cultivation. He also prayed for the village roads in the taluk being improved.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

52. Agricultural needs of the Neyyattinkara taluk.

Mr. S. V. E. A. Manikkam Chettiyar (Member, Neyyattinkara taluk) prefaced his remarks by observing that the prosperity of a country depended on the degree of agricultural improvement to which it had attained. The population of Neyyattinkara was 1,78,703, the chief occupation of the people being agriculture. There were no facilities for trade or industries. Formerly, the taluk was a rich one from a mercantile point of view because of the importance of Puvar and Vizhinjam which trading vessels used to touch. But now the only industry of the taluk was agriculture. According to his estimate, there were 641 *elas* in the taluk, suitable for cultivation with an area of about 1,19,005 acres. Of that area, *punja* lands covered 14,819 acres, garden lands 91,079 acres, *tharisu* 8,377 acres, and *poram bokes* 4,729 acres. The total revenue from the taluk was Rs. 1,12,468. The Member pointed out that there were about 1,200 tanks in the taluk which were all rain-fed. But they had become silted up and useless. If they had been repaired and put in order, they could be used to store rain water and would then irrigate the lands which at present were lying fallow. The cultivation of the *tharisu* area meant an annual increase of Rs. 12,000 to the revenue, besides addition to the country's production. It was entirely owing to want of water that the *tharisu* lands could not be cultivated. He did not ask for the tanks being taken in hand all at once. The more important of the tanks in each *ela* might be taken up first and then the smaller ones. The ryots were prepared to raise from among themselves half the cost of the expenditure required, the other half being met from State funds, as he was sure that the expenditure by Government would be more than covered by the additional revenue in the shape of assessment. But if the Government so desired, the people would be prepared to meet the whole cost. He made that statement, because he was authorised by his constituents to place that matter before Government. There was, the Member continued, a large area of *punja* lands in the taluk; yet, the output of paddy was not sufficient and a large quantity was being imported. The importation of the country's staple food grains was considerably hampered by the absence of shipping facilities in the State. If, as suggested by the Member, the *tharisu* lands could be brought under the plough, the people on his side would not have to depend on outside paddy. In Kottukal, there was an *ela* with 5,000 and odd *paras* of land. On account of the present silted condition of the tanks, 3,000 and odd *paras* were not being cultivated and there were several breaches in the various big tanks which had not been attended to for years. In conclusion, the Member prayed that the works referred to by him might be carried out by Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

53. Need for State aid in respect of Agriculture in the Chirayinkil taluk.

Mr. G. Velayudha Kurup (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) said that more than 85 per cent of the people of the taluk depended entirely upon agriculture for their livelihood and that there were not sufficient facilities for cultivation in the taluk at present. There were more than 20,000 acres of wet lands which were cultivated twice in the year. The assessment fixed on the lands in the taluk was also high when compared with the rates obtaining in the neighbouring taluks. The result was that, with the failure of crops which occurred frequently, the taluk was getting impoverished. In former days the Government had afforded facilities for cultivation in the taluk. Each *ela* was provided with a tank known as 'Cherakulam.' There

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were small channels for taking the water stored in the tank to the paddy fields and there were also culverts at intervals. All those channels became useless several years ago and the people were not able to restore them to their former condition.

Besides the above, the wet lands lying near the Attungal and Chittar rivers suffered much during the freshes in those rivers. There were formerly strong river bunds and also culverts where the canals from the paddy fields joined the river. They were non-existent at present.

The circumstances mentioned above contributed to the failure of crops and the consequent poverty of the people. The Member, therefore, suggested that a competent officer might be deputed from the P. W. Department to examine the condition of the tanks, bunds, culverts, etc., which required improvement and submit the necessary estimate with a view to those works being taken in hand and completed with the least possible delay. He added that the ryots were prepared to pay a portion of the expenditure along with the tax in instalments in accordance with the provisions of the Irrigation Regulation.

The Member next complained that the officers of the Agricultural Department did not sufficiently tour in the interior parts of the taluk and that the people did not get much help from the department. He, therefore, suggested—

(1) that the officers of the Agricultural Department be directed to go about the interior parts of the taluk more frequently and advise the ryots to follow improved methods of agriculture;

(2) that a manure depot be opened in the taluk ; and

(3) that the Agricultural Department might take up plots of land at specified places on lease and cultivate them on scientific lines and thus demonstrate to the people in a practical manner the advantages of improved methods of cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

54. Need for remedying the difficulties incidental to cultivation in the Shencottah taluk.

Mr. S. Kasi Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) said that the people of the taluk were mostly agriculturists who depended on their cattle for cultivation. There was no extensive grazing ground, all the lands for a few miles around being registered lands. The Member suggested that some lands on the sides of the hills close by, whether within or without the reserves, be set apart for grazing purposes.

The Member next referred to the difficulty of the ryots in the matter of water supply for agricultural purposes. He said that the jungles on the sides of hill streams had been registered against the orders of Government on the subject and that the registry-holders made clearings with the result that those streams dried up just at the time when water was necessary for agriculture. He also observed that the conservation of those places had been recommended by Mr. Venugopala Aiyar, the Deputy Conservator of Forests. He, therefore, requested that the aforesaid places be conserved in the interests of the agricultural population of the taluk.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

55. Agriculturaldifficulties in the Mavelikara taluk.

Mr. N. G. Parameswaran Pillai (Member, Mavelikara taluk) said that the bulk of the people of the taluk depended on the cultivation of paddy, that the wet lands in the taluk were divided into *virippu*, *punja* and *mundakan* and that most of the *punja* and *mundakan* lands were in the *pakuthis* of Chennithala and Mavelikara and the *virippu* lands in the Thekkekkara and Pallikkal *pakuthis*. The only river in the taluk which helped the agriculturists was the Kollakadavu river. The canals cut from the river in olden times to help cultivation had gradually silted up, rendering cultivation difficult. When the canals were in good condition, the yield from the adjoining wet lands was satisfactory and the assessment fixed on

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